

Informational Testimony HB 567

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Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee;

My name is John Vincent. I would be with you for your hearing on HB 567 this afternoon but a business commitment in Missoula made weeks ago has that impossible.

As a former Gallatin County Commissioner that lives just off US 191 and drives it almost daily, I want to lend my support to Representative Koopman's efforts to improve safety on this dangerous highway, as well as others around our state.

I have driven US 191 hundreds of times since 1954. One thing's for sure; Today's US 191 is a far cry from the safe and peaceful road it once was. And, given the growth in Big Sky (along with the ever increasing traffic volumes that growth will bring) it will continue to become an even more dangerous road unless a number of steps and safety improvements are made.

I am testifying as an informational witness on HB 567 because, on investigation, I have learned that HB 567 (as currently written) may not be as effective in making highways designated within Safety Corridors as safe as I know Representative Koopman, you, and all of us would like to see.

Therefore, I respectfully request that if the Transportation Committee determines that HB 567 (as currently written) falls short of being as good a piece of legislation as it needs to be to accomplish its intended purpose, it work with Representative Koopman, MDOT, the Montana Highway Patrol and other interested parties to develop the amendments needed to assure that its intended purpose of reducing accidents and saving lives on Montana's most dangerous highways can be achieved.

Thank You.